

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Suitability of any auto fuel like petrol, diesel, CNG depends on various factors like type of vehicle, its engine technology & design, maintenance requirements, performance, reliability, costs, local conditions etc.

(b) and (c) In Delhi, the diesel specifications are as per Bharat Stage-II norms (equivalent to EURO-II norms) in which the sulphur content is 0.05% max. In Europe the fuel specifications are as per EURO-III norms (sulphur content is 0.035% max.). Engine technologies that need diesel having sulphur content lower than 0.05% max. are yet to be developed/tested in the country and ultra-low sulphur diesel is, therefore, not required at present.

ONGC Videsh Project in Russia

1818. SHRIR.RGOENKA:

SHRISURESHPACHOURI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the ONGC Videsh Ltd. is investing Rs. 8,136 crores to buy a 20 percent stake in the Russian Oilfield Sakhalin-I;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the investment is commercially unsound and was signed with unprecedented haste and by-passing the procedures, as detailed in an article entitled Slippery Deal which appeared in the India Today dated the 11th June, 2001; and

(d) the details of the procedures followed to study the economics of the proposal and consultations held with the Ministry of Finance and others and their views, including dissents, at various stages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) ONGC-Videsh Ltd.

(OVL) signed an agreement with Rosneft, the national oil company of Russia on 10.2.2001 to acquire 20% participating interest from the Russian company in the Sakhalin-I offshore project. The total investment of OVL in the project is estimated to be of the order of US \$ 1.7 billion (Rs. 8,000 crores).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. For their investment in the Sakhalin-I Project, OVL and obtained the advice of internationally reputed consultants, namely, J.P. Morgan, Investment Consultants, and Gaffney, Cline & Associates (GCA), Technical Consultants, who had advised that Sakhalin-I project was a high quality investment opportunity with attractive returns. This proposal was approved by the Government following all requisite inter-Ministerial deliberations.

Functioning of Grievances Cell in oil companies

1819. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no communications are being received by the officers of the different oil and gas companies at the counter and also no receipts are issued for these communications;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no cell or counter exists in any oil companies/offices where the grievances of the owners of petrol pumps/LPG Agents are heard and readdressed; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to deliver justice to the aggrieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Public Grievances Cells have been set up in all Public Sector oil companies. Complaints/communications received by the Public Sector oil companies are examined for redressing the grievances as per their policy/guidelines. Oil companies have also nominated officers at Field level as well as at Divisional level/ Regional level to attend to the grievances/complaints from the customers/public. A suggestion/ complaint book, box is kept at the retail outlets/LPG distributorships, which can be utilised by the customers for registering their complaints. A board is also displayed at retail outlets/LPG distributors indicating the name, address and the telephone no. of the office/officers who is to be contacted in case of any complaint